

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-03

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S/S-O-J.HOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104096 TOSEC 110404

FOLLOWING REPEATS LONDON 6443 ACTION SECSTATE ANKARA INFO
ISLAMABAD TEHRAN 28 APR 76

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06443

PASS TO IO/OIC. NEA/RA, AND S/S-S

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OCON, CENTO

SUBJ: 23RD CENTO MINISTERIAL MEETING, LONDON

REF: STATE 102040

1. WE QUERIED FCO DESK OFFICER FOR CENTO ON REPORTED
UNCERTAINTY OVER DATES FOR CENTO MINISTERIAL. LATTER
EXPLAINED THAT AT RECENT RDC MEETING IN TURKEY, BOTH
TURKISH AND PAKISTANI FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD INDICATED
THAT MAY 26-27 DATES WERE INCONVENIENT FOR THEM. THERE-
UPON CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL HELD FURTHER DISCUSSIONS
WITH MEMBERS, INCLUDING US EMBASSY IN ANKARA, TO SEE IF
ALTERNATIVE DATES IN JULY WOULD BE PREFERABLE. ON BASIS
THESE DISCUSSIONS, SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMED FCO ON
APRIL 26 THAT ESTABLISHED DATES MAY 26-27 WOULD BE MOST
SUITABLE, ALTHOUGH IT POSSIBLE THAT PAKISTANI AND TURKISH
FOREIGN MINISTERS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND. THEREFORE,
FCO IS NOW "PLANNING FIRMLY" FOR MAY 26-27.

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2. FCO DESK OFFICER STRESSED FACT THAT DECISIONS ON
TIMING OF CONFERENCE ARE BASICALLY BEING MADE IN ANKARA
IN CENTO CONTEXT, WITH HMG AS HOST ADAPTING ITSELF AS
BEST IT CAN.

ARMSTRONG UNQUOTE SISCO

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